

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00001R000100280016-0

M. 220,491

S. 243,893

FEB 14 1965

The Bundy Brothers

LBJ's 'Wizards' in Action

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WASHINGTON — As the war in Viet Nam dragged the United States in deeper last week, two men who have been called "the most remarkable brother act in the government" were in the thick of dealing with it.

At the White House, McGeorge Bundy, the President's special assistant for national security affairs, was finding the struggle to protect South Viet Nam from Communist Viet Cong aggression his biggest headache. He was just back from a crucial fact-finding mission there for President Johnson.

At the State Department, big brother William Putnam Bundy, 18 months older and now 47, was still finding Viet Nam the most urgent matter for his attention as assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern affairs.

A RECENT newspaper headline called these brothers "The White House Wizards" and said that "when LBJ needs a speedy answer to a tough problem, he pushes the buttons on a couple of live computers named Mac and Bill Bundy."

Few advisers are believed to be more influential with President Johnson than the Bundy brothers. And McGeorge is perhaps the most highly prized of the experts Mr Johnson has been able to keep from the late President John F. Kennedy's White House team. In fact, many regard him as the most likely man to succeed Secretary of State Dean Rusk if he should leave the cabinet.

Like the Kennedy brothers, two of whom were childhood schoolmates, the Bundy brothers have long made government a family enterprise.

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

has not kept them from serving opposite-party administrations, as it did not deter their father. Mac is a Republican but has been a close confidant of two Democratic Presidents, although he was a campaign aide to Thomas E. Dewey during his unsuccessful candidacy for President as a Republican in 1948. Bill, a Democrat, served in the Central Intelligence Agency during the Eisenhower administration, was a close associate of then-CIA Director Allen Dulles, a Republican, and was given an important role as staff director of President Eisenhower's Commission on National Goals in 1960.

Both brothers survived swipes from the late Sen Joseph McCarthy, R-Wis., when he was on his free-swinging rampage of investigating alleged subversion in government in the 1950s, and went on to distinguished careers high in government.

Bill and Mac are sons of the late Harvey Hollister Bundy and Katharine Lawrence Putnam Bundy. Their father, a lawyer, was an assistant secretary of state in Herbert Hoover's administration and a special assistant to secretary of War Henry L. Stimson in World War II. Their mother is a niece of Harvard President A. Lawrence Lowell and of the poet, Amy Lowell.

THE BUNDY children—five in all — grew up in the Boston Brahmin atmosphere in a home where diplomacy and world affairs were commonplace conversation, with household visitors like Secretary Stimson and Dean Acheson, secretary of state during the Truman administration, and with spirited family debate.

Like the Kennedy children, Bill and Mac went to the

exclusive Dexter School in Brookline, Mass., where they played football with the late President and his older brother, Joseph Jr., who was killed in World War II.

The Bundy brothers also went to Groton School in Massachusetts, then to Yale University and Harvard University. Bill majored in history and got his bachelor of arts degree from Yale in 1939; Mac majored in mathematics and got his BA in 1940. Both made Phi Beta Kappa and Mac was one of the brightest students who ever entered Yale.

BILL TOOK AN MA degree at Harvard in 1940 and, in 1947 after war service, got a law degree there. Mac became a junior fellow at Harvard in 1941 and was to return there as an educator after war service.

Both entered the Army as privates in World War II and left it as officers, Mac as a captain, Bill as a major. As a staff officer, Mac participated in planning for the invasions of Sicily and France. Bill served in the Signal Corps in the European Theatre.

Getting his law degree later, Bill practiced law in Washington until 1951 in the big firm of Covington and Burling — Dean Acheson's law firm. In 1943, as an Army lieutenant, Bill had married Acheson's daughter, Mary Eleanor.

Bill joined the CIA in 1951 and stayed until 1960. He served as an alternate to the spy agency's deputy director for intelligence and as a member of the Board of National Estimates, whose job is to decide what intelligence information means — for example, what is the Soviet Un-

ion's industrial and military potential and how much will it grow?

IT WAS IN 1953, while in this job, that Bill Bundy became a target of Sen McCarthy. McCarthy, enraged because federal agencies resisted his efforts to tell them whom to fire, got at odds with CIA Director Dulles, and Bundy was one on whom he concentrated his fire. But Dulles got the backing of President Eisenhower and McCarthy suffered his first real defeat in his battle with the executive branch.

McCarthy said he planned to subpoena Bundy for questioning about two matters which Dulles said had already been checked to the CIA's satisfaction two years earlier when Bundy joined the CIA. One was a \$400 contribution by Bundy to the legal defense fund for Alger Hiss, the State Department official convicted of perjury for denying he passed secrets to Communists; Bundy had thought Hiss, like any man, deserved a legal defense, McCarthy was told. The other matter was Bundy's membership for two months, while a summer worker at the Library of Congress, in the United Public Workers of America; that was six years before the organization was alleged to be a Communist front, McCarthy was told.

A National Security Council meeting was called to consider the challenge to the executive branch posed by McCarthy's plan to summon Bundy. A top-level decision was made to tell McCarthy he would be wasting his time and paper issuing a summons. The senator then dropped the plan, but later he accused Dulles of "covering up" for Bundy.

McCARTHY ALSO attacked Bundy on another front: He tried to force the State Department to forego issuing him a passport for vacation travel abroad. The administration rebuffed the senator again; State pointedly issued the passport and wrote McCarthy telling him his reasons why it should be withheld did not hold water.

In 1960 President Eisenhower again demonstrated his confidence in Bundy by making him staff director of his Commission on National Goals. The commission published a book, "Goals for Americans," since promoted widely by the Advertising Council of America, for which Bundy wrote the final chapter looking ahead to the 1970s and warning of "two major dangers": 1) the growth of the Sino-Soviet Bloc, and 2) the "excessive expectations of the newer nations and their envy of the standards of the advanced nations," which might make them turn to the Soviet Bloc.

McCarthy did not like Mac Bundy, either. Mac drew his fire by rebutting the senator's attacks on Dean Acheson in a foreword Mac wrote for a volume of Acheson's state papers which he edited.

In the Kennedy-Johnson administration, Bill served from 1961 to 1963 as deputy assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs, then as assistant secretary in that field from November, 1963, to March, 1964. He played a major role in developing military aid programs in South Viet Nam, India and elsewhere.

LAST MARCH he was moved to State to succeed Roger Hilsman as assistant secretary of state for Far Eastern affairs.

Mac Bundy, back from the war in 1946, co-authored Secretary Stimson's "On Active Service in Peace and War," published in 1948. He served briefly as a consultant of the economic co-operation administration, then as assistant secretary of the Marshall Plan, later as political advisor to the

Council on Foreign Relations studying the Marshall Plan.

In 1949 Mac returned to Harvard as a visiting lecturer in government. By 1953, at the age of 34, he became dean of the Harvard Arts and Sciences faculty, a position he held along with that of professor of government until President Kennedy, then a Harvard overseer, brought him to the White House in 1961 as his staff officer on foreign and defense policy.

BOTH THE Bundy brothers are brilliant, any acquaintance will tell you. The late Judge Learned Hand once called Mac "the brightest man in America," and another observer said he moves so fast in analyzing problems "that he tends to knock down other thinkers along the way."

Because of this, Mac often seems brusque, even arrogant. He has little tolerance for fools or uninformed or silly questions. Ask him one of those and you wilt under the reply. He often treats the press like bothersome students. But for a well-drafted statement, or a clear summary if he feels he's authorized to comment, he is a man to see. He is adept, though, at letting you know not a bit more than he is supposed to.

He tends to play down his role as a maker of foreign policy, but Mr Johnson's reliance on him is believed to be even greater than Mr Kennedy's.

BILL GIVES THE appearance of being more deliberate and cautious, not reacting with such intuitive speed, observers say. Like Mac, he speaks like a professor.

The brothers, who look considerably alike, both have an academic look and manner. Both are lean, Bill 6 feet 4 and Mac 5 feet 10.

Both work long hours six to seven days a week and little time these days for families. Bill has three children; Mac, who was married in 1950 to Mary B. Lothrop Boston, has four.

Both like to play tennis. Bill is fond of traveling. Bill is working and walking on small farm in Sunshine, A

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